

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose Senator Schmit's amendment and Senator Elmer's amendment, and I want to tell you why. I think we'd be setting a precedent here if we adopted a cushion or a fudge factor in this speed limit law. Are we going to put a cushion then on all of our laws? Are we going to put a fudge factor on all our laws? How about drunken driving? Do we edge that up just a little bit, the alcohol content of a persons' blood? I think the patrolmen and our law enforcement people are pretty fair to all of us. They'll usually allow you a 3 or 4 mile an hour over, and a lot of times they'll just give you a warning ticket. So they are being pretty fair. I don't think that they can fine tune these radar units close enough anyway and so they are willing to give you a little leeway there. I'm also wondering if we are not jeopardizing some of our federal funds if we do this because it says, or the new federal law says that they are just going to allow you up to 65 miles an hour on the rural interstate roads. I think it is fairly clear on that. Senator Schmit talked about poor highways. Well, I'll agree with him on that fact. We do have a lot of poor highways in our state and I think we need to address that problem. He said, well, maybe on some of these poor highways we'd have to set a lower speed limit. Well, that is very confusing, and unless you are very observing a lot of times you don't notice when there is a lower speed limit on the highway, especially out in the rural areas. When you come up to a town or a city you realize that you need to slow down because the speed limits are lower. I think that the State Patrol will enforce this law as it is now. I'm sure with the words from the Governor the other day I think she means business on this. I think if we give a toleration rate here that she will veto the bill. So I'm going to oppose this amendment, and then I'm also going to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Marsh, please.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I rise to oppose both Senator Schmit's amendment and Senator Chambers' amendment. Senator Chambers was talking about only 11 deaths caused on the interstate highway. Well, Senator Schmit, that means that a good share of the remaining deaths will have to be caused by other than interstate driving. I do not feel it would be wise not looking at the constitutional question, not looking at the federal losing of dollars question, but by his own admission the fact that we do not have good roads